

A COMMUNICATION NETWORK HAVING ADJUSTABLE RESPONSE
TIMEOUTS AND METHOD THEREFORE

5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A communication network implements a timing system that closely
approximates network response times so that information may be transmitted
between two data processing systems within the network in a timely and efficient
manner. During operation of the communication network, a sending data
processing system sends query data to a receiving data processing system. A
response timer within the sending data processing system is initialized to track the
query operation. If the receiving data processing system provides a response to the
sending data processing system before the response timer expires, the timing
15 implemented for data communications is proper for the communication network.
However, if the receiving data processing system fails to provide a response within
a time specified by the response timer, the transmitting data processing system
resends a query frame. Subsequently, the sending data processing system in the
communication network gradually increases a response time until the time
20 measured by the response timer does not expire before a response is received by
the sending data processing system.